



DEDICATING POOL, Duxbury Selectman Paul C. Barber yesterday spoke of the "profound influence" of the late Percy

L. Walker, to whom the pool is dedicated. The pool is a gift to the town from anonymous donors. (Photo by Craig Murray)

Walker Swim Pool Dedicated

DUXBURY — The Percy L. Walker swimming pool, a gift to the town from anonymous donors, was dedicated in ceremonies Saturday afternoon.

Selectman Paul C. Barber, master of ceremonies, introduced special guests and told the good size crowd attending, "We are gathered today to dedicate a magnanimous act by a group of very wonderful people. Their generosity to the people of Duxbury is impossible to quantify. Their hearts are so big we cannot ever say thank you enough."

Mr. Barber said, "It takes a special sort of person to do that which is said — 'tis more blessed to give than to receive.' This is so, but those of us who are fortunate to be on the receiving end are also blessed by the act. Their act of building this pool and dedicating it to Percy L. Walker shows the deep and abiding love they have for Duxbury."

He said, "They knew Mr. Walker and his profound influence on the character of Duxbury. In his lifetime he saw the town at a static population of 2,500 to 3,000 and had the foresight to recognize what has happened since 1946. Through his efforts in 1944, Duxbury began to control its growth."

"Although there are almost four times as many people in Duxbury who now can enjoy this pool, they can remember that when they see the name Percy L. Walker, that to him goes a tremendous debt for that which they enjoy in the whole town."

Mr. Barber unveiled the stainless steel letters "Percy L. Walker Swimming Pool" on the front of the brick building as he dedicated the structure.

Duxbury

Recognized guests included selectmen, Daniel Brown and Hugh Jones of the Bluefish River Corp., who acted on behalf of the anonymous donors; a representative from Bond Bros., contractors for the pool; Reggie Grover, superintendent on the job; Kenneth DiNisco of Johnson-Hotvedt & Associates, architects; Frank LeSueur, recreation director; the pool staff; and Clarence and Donald Walker, sons of Percy L. Walker.

A tour of the facility and refreshments followed the ceremonies.

The new facility includes a NCAA regulation swimming pool, 75 feet long by 45 feet wide and 12 feet at the deepest point; six racing lanes; a one-meter diving board; and provisions for the future installation of folding or permanent bleachers to accommodate 160 spectators.

In addition to the pool, the building includes men's and women's lockers; shower and toilet facilities; an office area off the lobby; and a separate changing and shower facility for administration and teaching personnel; storage areas for lifesaving and safety equipment; a pool observation area; and an entrance lobby with an information counter.

The building design provides complete accessibility for handicapped persons including a special device, which lowers handicapped persons into the water.

All exterior walls are brick and

the foundations, pool, and lower roof structure are concrete. The roof structure over the swimming pool consists of laminated wood beams and cementitious roof deck.

Finishes include ceramic tile on walls and floor in all wet areas, including the entire pool and deck area. The outdoor entry plaza and entrance lobby are paved with brick.

The building will be heated by oil and lighting over the pool is provided by metalarc lamps. A mechanical room in the basement houses a balancing tank and filters.

Opening day of the facility for public use will be July Thursday. Pool hours for Thursday through July 12 only will be from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday for general swimming. Instructional swimming lessons will begin on July 12.

There will be a daily fee charge for use of the pool. Through the purchase of a recreation activities card discount plan, this fee will be waived. Instructional swimming registration and purchase of the discount plan will be available to Duxbury residents only at the old town hall from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday and July 6 and 8 and from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and July 7 and 9.

Tryouts for a swimming team and a diving team will be at 10 a.m. July 6 and 7.